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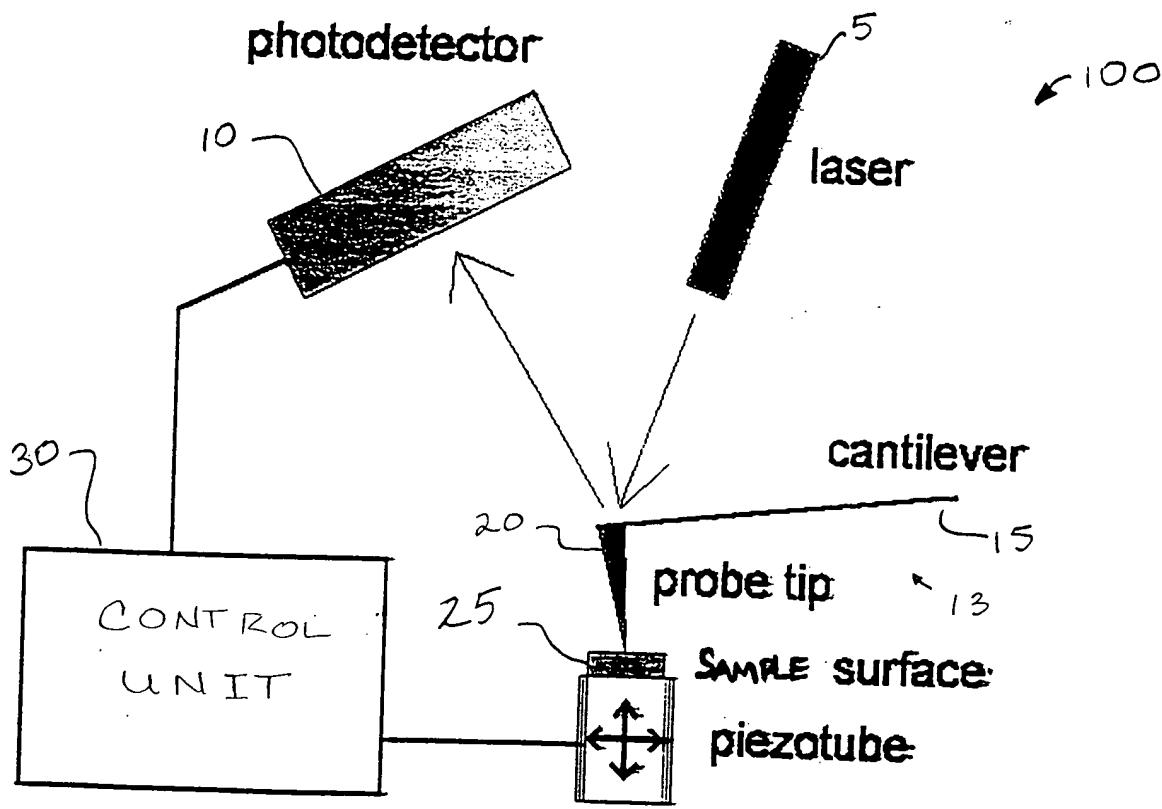


FIG. 1

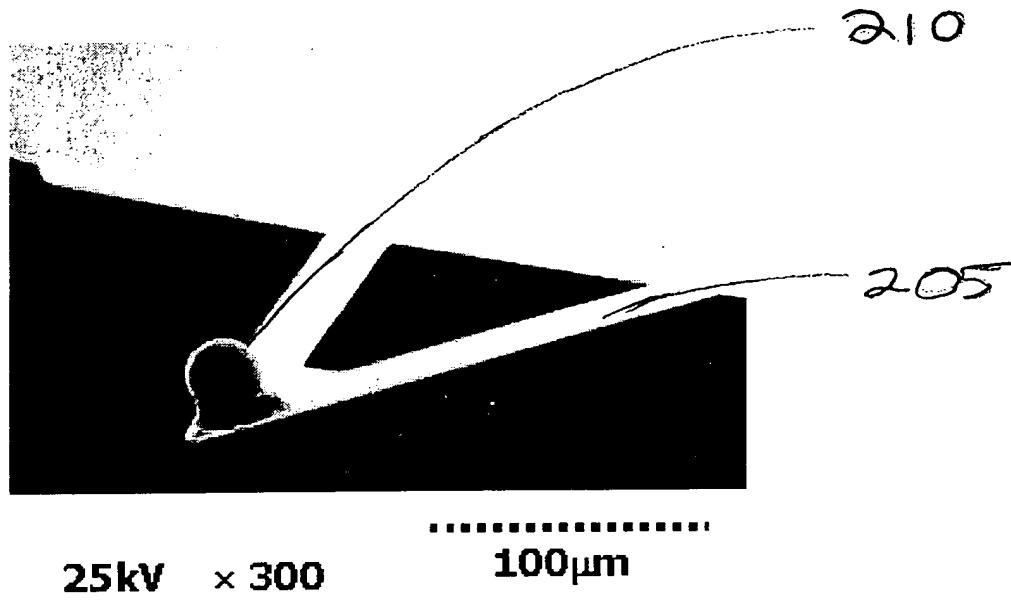
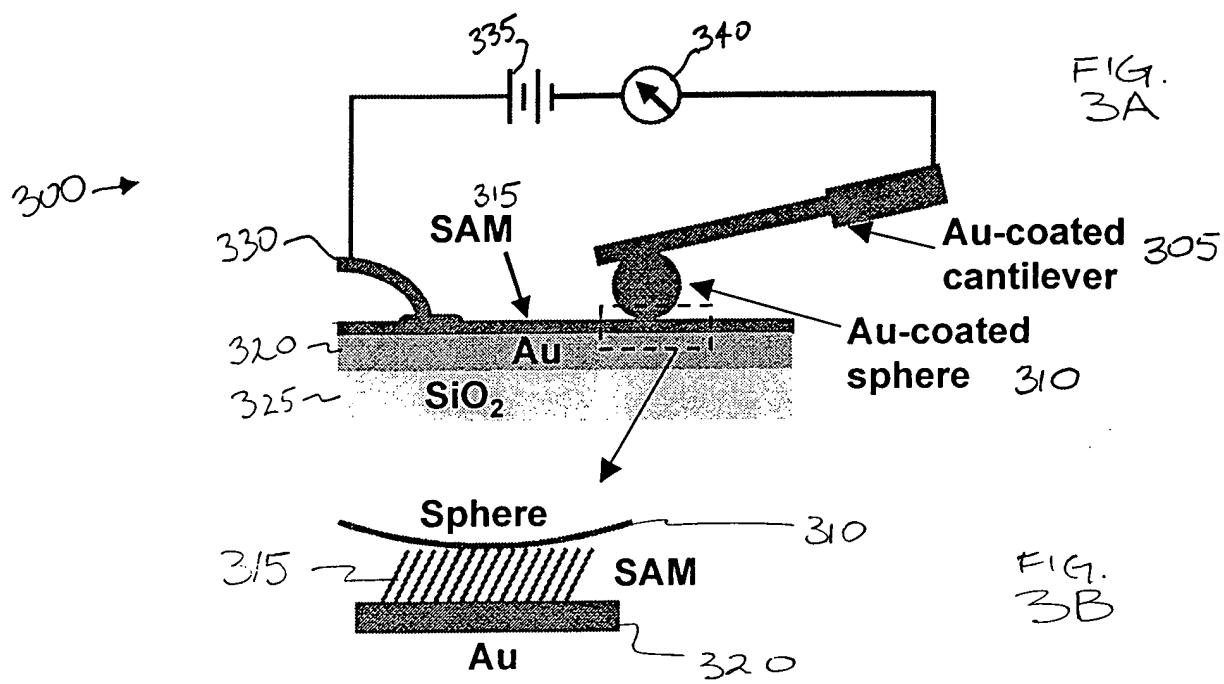


FIG. 2



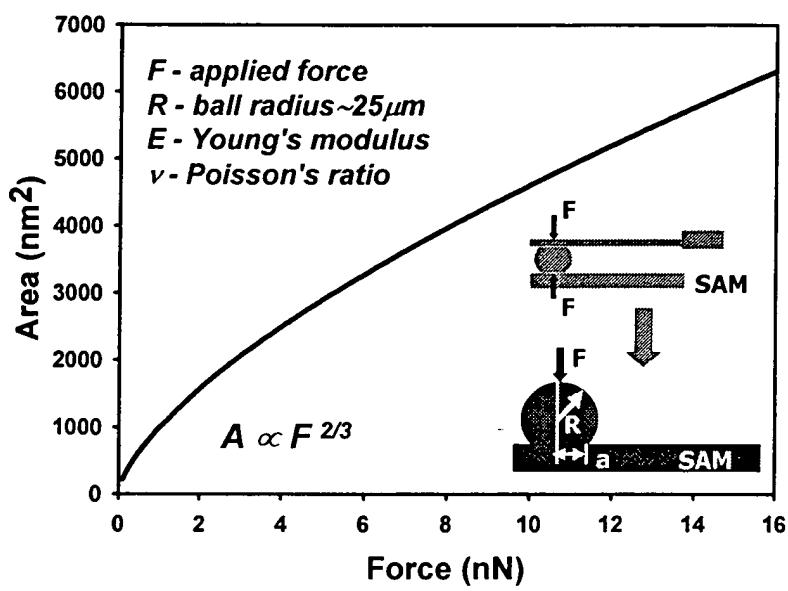


FIG. 4

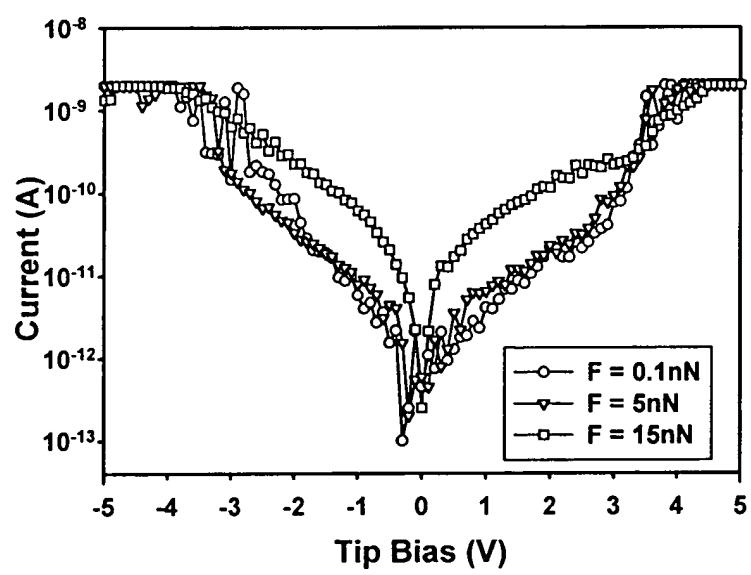


FIG. 5

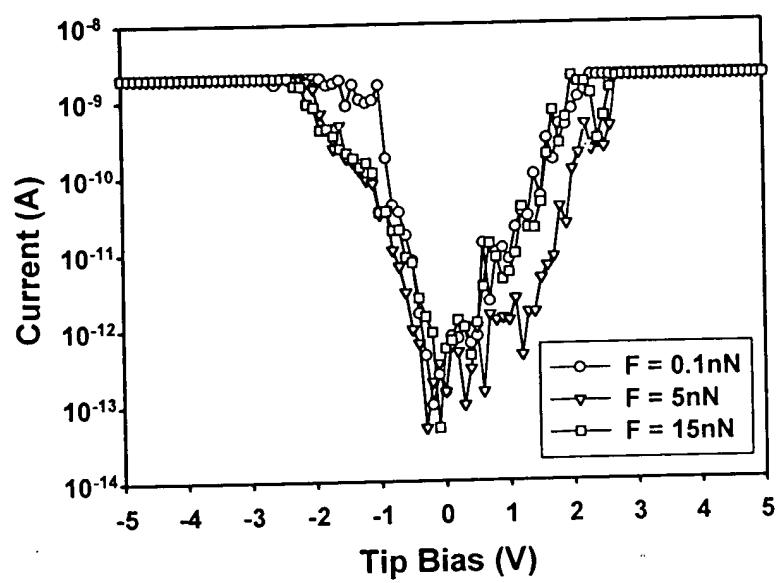


FIG. 6

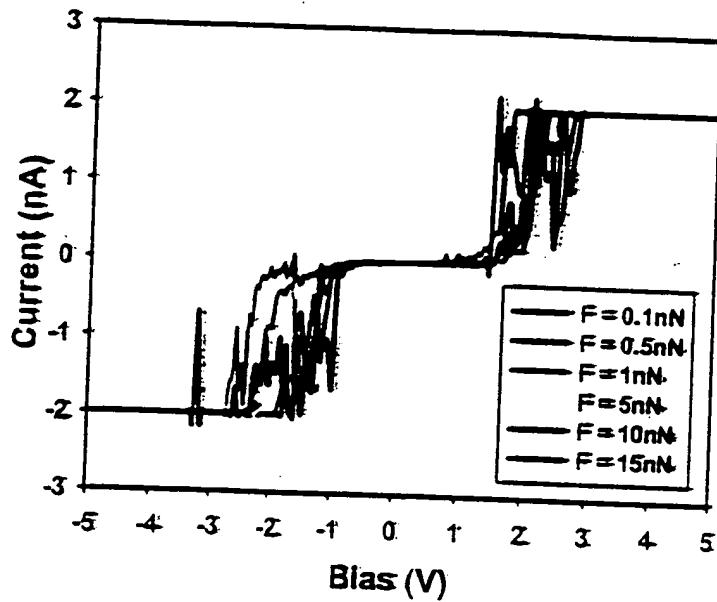


FIG. 7

I-V characteristics for a 1-Octadecanethiol monolayer self-assembled on a gold surface. Characteristics vary relatively little for a wide range of tip forces.

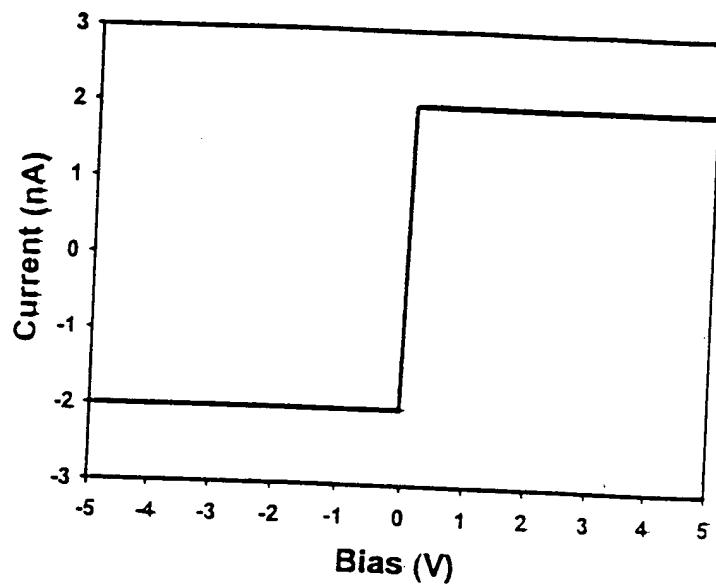


FIG. 8

I-V characteristic using a 25 micron diameter microsphere tip to measure a gold layer at a tip force of 0.1 nN (current limited to 2 nA).